

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A method for the treatment of a non-finished textile component is provided. The method comprises the steps of treating a non-finished textile component in an aqueous bleaching solution of hydrogen and a hydrophobic bleach activator or hydrophobic peracid. Preferred bleach activators include the alkanoyloxybenzene sulfonates and in particular noanoyloxybenzene sulfonate. The method provides superior fiber protection and fabric strength benefits versus conventional processing as well as significant savings in both energy and time due to the lower bleaching temperatures.